



SEXEY'S  
SCHOOL

# Searching and Confiscation Policy

SEPTEMBER 2022

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SLT Lead	Helen Cullen
Policy last reviewed by	Helen Cullen
Policy Level	School

We believe that all children and young people should have the same protection regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity. We are committed to anti-discriminatory practice and recognise the additional needs of children from minority ethnic groups and disabled children and the barriers they may face, especially around communication.

Signed

Helen Cullen

Headteacher

# SEXEY'S SCHOOL

## SEARCHING AND CONFISCATION POLICY

### SCHOOL ETHOS AND VALUES

Our Christian values are at the heart of the ethos of the school and through these we grow individually and as a community. The Story of the Good Samaritan underpins our 7 core values of:

- Honesty
- Forgiveness
- Empathy
- Courage
- Resilience
- Kindness
- Respect

These core values underpin our policies, procedures and the way we treat one another in our community.

### INTRODUCTION

This policy is designed to supplement the Behaviour Policy and Student Code of Conduct. The policy will be guided by current advice given by the Department of Education regarding searching, screening and confiscation and will be updated in line with Department guidance issued to Headteachers, Governing Bodies and school staff. Detailed advice is contained in the document produced by the Department and the purpose of this policy is not to replicate that advice but to refer readers to that document as the primary source for current advice and guidance.

Reference - Department for Education: Searching, Screening and confiscation. Advice for headteachers, school staff and governing bodies July 2022.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1091132/Searching\\_Screening\\_and\\_Confiscation\\_guidance\\_July\\_2022.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1091132/Searching_Screening_and_Confiscation_guidance_July_2022.pdf)

### PRINCIPLES OF SEARCHING

The following principles apply at Sexey's School:

- School staff can search a student for any item if the pupil agrees
- The Headteacher and staff authorised by her have a statutory power to search students or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the student may have a prohibited item. Prohibited items include, but are not restricted to:
  - Knives or weapons
  - Alcohol
  - Illegal drugs
  - Stolen items

- Tobacco, cigarette papers or electronic cigarettes including vapour inhalers
- Fireworks
- Pornographic images
- Any article that a staff member suspects has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence or
- To cause personnel injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the student)

### **CONFISCATION**

School staff will ensure the student understand the reason for search and how it will be conducted. School staff can seize any prohibited item found as a result of a search. They can also seize any item, however found, which they consider harmful to members of school community. Where the confiscated item is drugs or weapons, the Police will be contacted and asked to collect the substances from the school. All other prohibited items will be stored for collection by Parents. Appropriate internal and external support will be gained for the student and family through referral to specialist agencies.

### **SEARCHING WITH OR WITHOUT CONSENT**

Detailed advice for staff who may be searching with or without consent is contained in the Department guidance. This advice is to be considered before a search with or without consent is undertaken. When searching takes place staff will undertake this in pairs with where possible the student being present.

### **SEARCHING BOARDER'S ROOMS**

Where there is justified reason to search a boarder's room the search will be carried out by the Director of Boarding, Headteacher or member of SLT with the student present where possible. Where student permission is not given, parental permission should be sought. Should neither permission be obtained, the search should only be carried out on the authorisation of the Headteacher, who should also be in attendance during the search.

For the avoidance of doubt, there should be a minimum of two staff present at any search and a follow-up written report completed after the search that must be recorded on classcharts or MyConcerns.

### **MONITORING**

This policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher on a two yearly basis.